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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,328	10/03/2000	Yasuo Takane	0905-0247P-SP	4817
7590	11/02/2004		EXAMINER	
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP			AGGARWAL, YOGESH K	
P.O.Box 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747			2615	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/678,328	TAKANE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Yogesh K Aggarwal	2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-9, 11 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima et al. (US Patent # 5,070,405) in view of Anderson (US Patent # 6, 011,585).

[Claim 1]

Ejima et al. teaches a digital camera (col. 5 line 43, figure 3) comprising a photometry device (figure 3, element 21) for performing photometry for each of the sections obtained by dividing an imaging area into a plurality of sections to output photometry values (col. 5 lines 61-67, col. 6 lines 1-2), an imaging device (figure 3, element 3) for imaging a subject to output image data representing an image of the subject (col. 6 lines 32-41), an exposure control device (figure 3, element 10 for controlling an amount of exposure in said imaging device on the basis of the photometry values outputted by said photometry device (col. 6 lines 8-23).

Ejima teaches a recording medium 9 for recording the image data and a CPU10 for recording the output of photometry element 21 but fails to teach an image file create device for creating an image file containing the image data outputted from said imaging device and data representing the photometry values for each of the sections outputted from said photometry device, the image file device creating the image file for each of imaging by said imaging device and a recording control device for recording the image file created by said image file create device on a recording medium. However Anderson teaches a recording medium (figure 4c, element 417) having an

image data recording field (figure 4c, element 419) for recording image data and a miscellaneous data field (figure 4c, element 425) for recording exposure values in an image file wherein the combination of 419 and 425 are read as an image file. Therefore taking the combined teachings of Ejima and Anderson it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have used the teachings of Anderson to store an image data and exposure values obtained by dividing the photometry sensor into different sections as taught by Ejima in an image file in order to store both the image data and exposure values in an image file. The benefit of doing so would be to have less hardware, as one memory can be used for saving both the image as well as the photometry values leading to a reduction in overall cost of the digital camera.

[Claim 10]

This is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 1. Therefore, claim 10 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

*Conclusion*

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

i. Konishi (US Patent # 5,420,635) discloses a photometric sensor 27 which can be divided into different regions to calculate the average photometry values for each of the small areas (col. 17 lines 11-21).

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

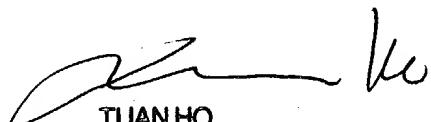
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh K Aggarwal whose telephone number is (703) 305-0346. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YKA

10/21/04



TUAN HO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER